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**PATENT**

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/773,214  
Filing Date: January 31, 2001  
Applicant: Jinhong K. Guo  
Group Art Unit: 2623  
Examiner: Unknown  
Title: Run Length Based Connected components and Contour  
following for Enhancing The Performance of Circled  
Region Extraction Algorithm  
Attorney Docket: 9432-000123

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Box  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please amend the application as follows.

**RECEIVED**  
JAN 29 2002  
Technology Center 2600

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the following paragraphs of the specification. Applicant includes herewith an Attachment for Specification Amendments showing a marked up version of each replacement paragraph.

Please replace the Paragraph starting at page 10, line 4 with the following paragraph: